

## CLAIMS

1. A method of administering identifying characteristics in a computer, comprising the steps of:

inputting the identifying characteristic by a user;  
checking the identifying characteristic by a checking device during input, involving the check of one or more check criteria; and  
transmitting the identifying characteristic to a identifying characteristic processing device if the identifying characteristic meets all criteria.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
notifying the user during input as to whether the identifying characteristic meets the check criteria.

3. The method of claim 2, in which the notification to the user is effected by offering the user a facility to terminate input of the identifying characteristic, in which the facility is deactivated if the identifying characteristic fails to meet at least one check criterion, in which the facility is activated if the identifying characteristic meets all check criteria, and in which the identifying characteristic is only transmitted to the identifying characteristic processing device when input is terminated.

4. The method of claim 1 in which, if the identifying characteristic comprises several components, the check is performed for each component individually.

5. The method of claim 1 in which, during the check, the deviation of the identifying characteristic from the check criteria is established, and the input operation is aborted if a specific degree of deviation is exceeded.

6. A device for administering identifying characteristics in a computer, comprising:

means for inputting the identifying characteristic by a user;  
a check device for checking the identifying characteristic during input for conformance to one or more check criteria; and

means for transmitting the identifying characteristic to an identifying characteristic processing device.

7. The device of claim 6, comprising means for informing the user as to whether the identifying characteristic meets the check criteria.

8. The device of claim 6, comprising:  
a facility for terminating input of the identifying characteristic by the user;  
means for deactivating the facility; and  
means for activating the facility.

9. The device of claim 6, comprising means for checking each component individually if the identifying characteristic comprises several components,.

10. The device of claims 6, comprising:  
means for establishing a deviation of the identifying characteristic from the check criteria;  
and  
means for aborting the input operation if a specific degree of deviation is exceeded.